

2016 Current Fiscal Year Report: Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Energy

2. Fiscal Year

2016

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories

3b. GSA

Committee No.

2495

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

05/28/2014

6. Expected Renewal Date

05/28/2016

7. Expected Term Date

02/28/2016

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

8b. Specific Termination Authority

Public Law No. 113-76.

8c. Actual Term Date

10/28/2015

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Enacted

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, P.L. No. 113-76

13. Effective Date

01/17/2014

14. Committee Type

Ad hoc

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

10/23/2015

Report Title

Final Report - Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

The Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories (Commission) was convened for its final meeting at 1:00 PM on October 23, 2015. Commission Co-Chair TJ Glauthier led the meeting. The meeting included a summary of public comments received to date, an opportunity for additional public comment, and Commission discussion and vote to approve the Final Report.

Start

End

10/23/2015 - 10/23/2015

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

Current FY Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$7,189.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$200.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$16,389.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.02	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Section 319 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Public Law No. 113-76 established the Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories. The Commission will review whether the DOE national laboratories are properly aligned with the Department's strategic priorities, have clear and balanced missions, have unique capabilities to meet current energy and national security challenges, are appropriately sized to meet the Department's energy and national security missions, and are appropriately supporting other Federal agencies. The Commission will also look for opportunities to more effectively and efficiently use the capabilities of the national laboratories and analyze the effectiveness of the use of laboratory directed research and development (LDRD) to meet the Department's science, energy and national security goals. In Phase 1, the objective of the Commission is to address whether the Department of Energy's (DOE) national laboratories are properly aligned with the Department's strategic priorities; have clear, well understood, and properly balanced missions that are not unnecessarily redundant and duplicative; have unique capabilities that have sufficiently evolved to meet current and future energy and national security challenges; are appropriately sized to meet the Department's energy and national security missions; and are appropriately supporting other Federal agencies and the extent to which it benefits DOE missions. For Phase 2, the Commission shall also determine whether there are opportunities to more effectively and efficiently use the capabilities of the national laboratories, including consolidation and realignment, reducing overhead costs, reevaluating governance models using industrial and academic bench marks for comparison, and assessing the impact of DOE's oversight and management approach. In its evaluation, the Commission should also consider the cost and effectiveness of using other research, development, and technology centers and universities as an alternative to meeting DOE's energy and national security goals. The Commission shall analyze the effectiveness of the use of laboratory directed research and development (LDRD) to meet the Department of Energy's science, energy, and national security goals. The

Commission shall further evaluate the effectiveness of the Department's oversight approach to ensure LDRD-funded projects are compliant with statutory requirements and congressional direction, including requirements that LDRD projects be distinct from projects directly funded by appropriations and that LDRD projects derived from the Department's national security programs support the national security mission of the Department of Energy. Finally, the Commission shall quantify the extent to which LDRD funding supports recruiting and retention of qualified staff. The Commission will submit a report containing the Commission's findings and conclusions to the Secretary of Energy, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Senate.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Commission shall be composed of approximately nine members, appointed by the Secretary of Energy to serve as special Government employees. The members shall be eminent in a field of science or engineering; and/or have expertise in managing scientific facilities; and/or have expertise in cost and/or program analysis; and have an established record of distinguished service. The membership of the Commission shall be representatives of the broad range of scientific, engineering, financial, and managerial disciplines related to activities under this title.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Total Meetings - 10

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Commission will examine if the priorities of the labs are in line with the broader strategic priorities of the Energy Department

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, P.L. No. 113-76.

Designated Federal Officer

Karen Gibson DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Augustine, Norman	07/18/2014	07/18/2016	Retired Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Austin, Wanda	07/18/2014	07/18/2016	President and CEO of The Aerospace Corporation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cohon, Jared	07/18/2014	07/18/2016	President Emeritus and University Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Elachi, Charles	07/18/2014	07/18/2016	Director, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fleury, Paul	07/18/2014	07/18/2016	Frederick William Beinecke Professor of Engineering and Applied Physics and Engineering Dean Emeritus, Yale University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Glauthier, Theodore	07/18/2014	07/18/2016	President, TJG Energy Associates, LLC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hockfield, Susan	07/18/2014	07/18/2016	President Emerita and Professor of Neuroscience, MIT	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Meserve, Richard	07/18/2014	07/18/2016	President Emeritus, Carnegie Institution for Science	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Murray, Cherry	07/18/2014	10/23/2015	Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 9

Narrative Description

Section 319 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Public Law No. 113-76 established the Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories. The Commission was charged with reviewing whether the DOE national laboratories are properly aligned with the Department's strategic priorities, have clear and balanced missions, have unique capabilities to meet current energy and national security challenges, are appropriately sized to meet the Department's energy and national security missions, and are appropriately supporting other Federal agencies. The Commission was also asked to look for opportunities to more effectively and efficiently use the capabilities of the national laboratories and analyze the effectiveness of the use of laboratory directed research and development (LDRD) to meet the Department's science, energy and national security goals.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>

Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Commission convened its final meeting in a public teleconference on October 23, 2015. At this meeting, the Commission outlined comments received on its final report during the written public comment period, heard additional comments from the public, and voted unanimously to approve the report. The Final Report (Volumes 1 and 2) is available for download at

<http://energy.gov/labcommission/downloads/final-report-commission-review-effectiveness-nation>

Commission was established in May 2014 and held monthly meetings from July 2014 to July 2015.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Cost savings could be projected after the report is issued.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

36

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Commission found that the Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories are national assets that have contributed profoundly to the Nation's security, scientific leadership, and economic competitiveness. In recognition of the continuing and evolving threats to our security and the dramatic increase in global economic and scientific competition, the

laboratories are and will continue to be vitally important. Yet, the contributions of the National Laboratories are not inevitable, nor have they realized their full potential. This final report of the Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories recommends ways the laboratories could overcome challenges to more efficiently and effectively accomplish the work for which they are uniquely suited. The Commission's unanimous findings and recommendations are grouped around six themes:• Recognizing value• Rebuilding trust• Maintaining alignment and quality• Maximizing impact• Managing effectiveness and efficiency• Ensuring lasting change

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

69%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The Department continues to work towards implementation of the recommendations it committed to in its response to the Commission.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

25%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Implementation of some recommendations is on-going.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Departmental response to the final report can be found at

<http://energy.gov/labcommission/downloads/departmental-response-final-report-commission-rev>

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities



Reallocated resources



Issued new regulation



Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Actions that the Department is taking can be found in the Departmental response.

<http://energy.gov/labcommission/downloads/departmental-response-final-report-commission-rev>

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

The Commission's interim report, final report and DOE's response are accessible on the Lab Commission website:

<http://energy.gov/labcommission/downloads/departmental-response-final-report-commission-rev>